make them realise the change of their roles under the Open School System.

Currently two uplinks are available, one at IGNOU and the second at ISRO, Ahmedabad. The channel has now reached an operational stage. There are several regular users and many frequent users. The potential of its application in very important areas like primary school teacher training, panchayati raj training, training of health and ICDS anganwadi workers, training of trainers, etc. is great.

Southern Gas Grid

2860. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the stage at which the Southern Gas Grid Stands;

(b) the steps taken so far to implement it;

(c) the nature of bottleneck, if any, in the implementation of the project; and

(d) the steps taken to remove such bottlenecks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d). The Southern States have completed the pre-feasibility study for the project. The feasibility of importing gas from Oman and Iran and the feasibility of importing LNG for the Southern States is under study. The project will be implemented when sufficient gas/ LNG is available.

Sethusamudram Project

2861. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any proposals under the consideration of the Government to implement the Sethusamudram Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Absorption of Candidates Government Appointment

2862. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of candidates recommended by the UPSC during 1994-95 and 1995-96, till date for appointment in Government service;

(b) the number of recommended candidates by the UPSC absorbed in the Government service; and

(c) the reasons for not absorbing the remaining candidates and steps contemplated by the Government to absorb them the Government jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) and (c). This information is not Centrally monitored. However, the candidates recommended by the UPSC are generally reqiired to be appointed against the post for which they have been recommended though there may be some delay due to completion of pre-recruitment formalities or change in the vacancy position.

STATEMENT

	1994-95	1995-96
By Examination	4326	3991
By Recruitment	900	947
By Promotion	3869	3242
By Transfer/on deputation	290	416
Total	9385	8596

Urban Poverty Alleviation Schemes

2863. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various schemes under Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme going on in the country;

(b) the budgetary allocation made for these programmes during the last three years and for the current year;

(c) the number of people benefited thereby in each State during the above period;

(d) the amount actually provided to each State for these programmes during the same period; and

(e) the details of further plans of the Government to alleviate the urban poverty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) This Ministry is implementing three centrally sponsored schemes namely, Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP) and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme